

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
SY-05 USSS-00 MCT-01 /085 W
-----120780 301310Z /43

P R 301215Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2423
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
COMSIXTHFLT
DIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
SHAPEUSNR
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AFOSI DIST 65 ROME IT/IVOA
HQ AFOSI WASHDC/IVOAD

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT IT
SUBJECT: FLURRY OF MORO LETTERS RECEIVED AS POLITICAL
DIFFERENCES DEEPEN

1. SOME TIME AGO, GIANNINO GUIZO, DEFENSE LAWYER FOR CURCIO AND
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THE OTHER RED BRIGADE TERRORISTS CURRENTLY STANDING TRIAL IN TURIN,
POINTED TO MORO AS "THE BEST INTERMEDIARY FOR HIMSELF." THE
RED BRIGADES SEEM TO AGREE. RATHER THAN ENGAGE IN NEW COMMUNIQUE,
MORO'S CAPTORS APPEAR TO BE RELYING AT THIS MOMENT ON A STRATEGY
WHICH USES MORO TO EXPLOIT THE POLITICAL DIFFERENCES THAT HAVE
EMERGED ON DEALING WITH THE RED BRIGADES. WITHIN THE LAST TWENTY-
FOUR HOURS, THEY HAVE ARRANGED FOR THE DELIVERY OF POSSIBLY UP

TO SEVEN LETTERS FROM MORO (APPARENTLY IN A PACKET).

2. ONLY ONE LETTER, ADDRESSED TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND RECEIVED BY THE ROME NEWSPAPER MESSAGERO IN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ARE NOT CLEAR, HAS BEEN PUBLISHED. ALTHOUGH MORO'S HAND-WRITING APPEARS TO BE MUCH LESS STEADY, THE PRESSURE OF AN IMMINENT THREAT OF DEATH APPEARS MUCH LESS EVIDENT. IN THE REFERENCES THAT MORO MAKES TO THE POPE'S APPEAL AND SOCIALIST LEADER CRAXI'S EFFORTS TO FIND A "HUMANITARIAN ALTERNATIVE", IT IS CLEAR THAT THE RED BRIGADES HAVE GIVEN MORO ACCESS--AT LEAST PARTIALLY--TO NEWS OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

3. IN MUCH LESS EMOTIONAL TERMS, MORO'S LETTER TO THE DC AGAIN BEGS THE PARTY TO ENGAGE IN A PRISONER EXCHANGE. THE IMPRISONED DC LEADER ASSERTS THAT THE STATE CAN HARDLY BE DESTROYED BY THE MERE HUMANITARIAN FREEING OF AN INNOCENT CITIZEN IN EXCHANGE FOR PERSONS WHO WOULD GO INTO EXILE RATHER THAN TO PRISON. HE URGES CRAXI TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION. ACCUSING ZACCAGNINI OF BEING AFRAID TO CONFRONT THE PARTY, MORO ASSERTS HIS OWN AUTHORITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE DC TO CONVENE AN URGENT MEETING OF THE PARTY'S NATIONAL COUNCIL (THE DC'S HIGHEST DELIBERATIVE ORGAN) TO DISCUSS HIS FATE. HE DESIGNATES DC DIRECTORATE MEMBER MISASI (A MEMBER OF THE BASE FACTION) TO ACT ON HIS BEHALF.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE LETTER TO THE PARTY, MORO IS SAID TO HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WRITTEN AT LEAST TWO NEW LETTERS TO THE FAMILY. OTHER LETTERS WERE REPORTEDLY ADDRESSED TO MISASI, DC LEADER PICCOLI, SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY HEAD SARAGAT AND PSI SECRETARY CRAXI. WHILE CRAXI HAS NOT CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF A LETTER. SARAGAT IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT MORO'S LETTERS WERE "AN ACT OF DESPARATE HUMANITY TO WHICH ONE COULD NOT REMAIN INSENSITIVE FROM A MORAL POINT OF VIEW."

5. CRAXI HAS SAID THAT HE WILL CONTINUE HIS "HUMANITARIAN OFFENSIVE" TO FIND A WAY TO SPARE MORO'S LIFE. FOLLOWING THE LATEST MORO LETTERS, SARAGAT HAS ASSOCIATED HIS SMALL SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY WITH CRAXI'S INITIATIVE. TRADE UNION UNITY ON THE ISSUE ALSO APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN BREECHED. CISL LEADER MACARIO TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE AGREED "WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE OFFENSIVE". "FIRMNESS, BY ITSELF, IS NOT A STRATEGY," HE SAID.

6. GOVERNMENT AND DC LEADERS, HOWEVER, SHOW NO SIGNS OF CHANGING THEIR RESOLUTE POSITION AGAINST ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RED BRIGADES. SPEAKING ON TELEVISION APRIL 28, PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI REITERATED THIS POSITION AND AFFIRMED THAT THERE WAS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR IT BOTH IN THE GOVERNMENT AND AMONG THE PARTIES. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS AGREED TO RESPOND TO AN APPEAL BY "FEBRUARY

74", A CATHOLIC SOCIAL-ACTION GROUP IN WHICH MORO'S SON GIOVANNI
IS ACTIVE, THAT THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS BE DESIGNATED AS
AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RED BRIGADES TO
SEEK MORO'S RELEASE. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PARTY LEADERS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, THREATS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 30 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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